and medical institutions located in cardamom growing tracts for the welfare of cardamom plantation workers.

(c) The expenditure incurred in Tamil Nadu under various labour welfare schemes of the Board during the last three years is reproduced below:

Year	Education	Health	Sports
2002-03	35,52,126	7,28,850	54,000
2003-04	9,01,278	8,90,680	30,000
2004-05	12,72,169	18,96,450	84,551

The Spices Board have reported 37 schools and 395 students as the beneficiary of the programmes for the year 2004-05. During the year 2004-05 the expenditure incurred is Rs. 2,02,050.00.

Child labour in Mines

1956. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the inhuman treatment to small children in the Iron Ore queries in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the action being taken to stop this exploitation of child labour in these mines; and

(c) whether Government have taken any action against these query and mine owners?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) Engagement of child labour in the mines and mining related activities is prohibited under the provisions of Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986. As per the report received from Govt. of Karnataka, there is no evidence of child labour engaged in mines in organized sector. However, in case of informal digging activities being carried out in some parts of the State mainly by the migrant labourers, there may be stray instances of children assisting their parents in work.

(b) and (c) Government of Karnataka is very vigilant on the issue of engagement of child labour in mines and related activities and has taken adequate remedial steps to prevent engagement of children in these

activities. To rehabilitate child labourers, Commissioner for Public Instruction has issued instructions for enrolment of all out of school children in schools. Special schools under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan are also being opened in these areas, wherever necesary. The Enforcement officers have been instructed to take stringent action against employers engaging child labour in mines & queries.

Creation of employment opportunities

†1957. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the data regarding creation of employment opportunities in the country after mid-term review of the Tenth Five-Year Plan;

(b) if so, the annual increase rate as regards creation of more employment opportunities during the last few years of the Tenth Five-Year Plan; and

(c) whether the target of providing employment on the basis of such increase would be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): *(a) to (c) As per estimates given in Mid Term Appraisal* (MTA) document, employment opportunities on CDS basis for first three years of Tenth Plan have been estimated at 349.89 million in 2002-03, 356.16 million in 2003-04 and 362.64 million in 2004-05. The above assessment is based on growth in output and the observed elasticities in the recent past.

Rate of interest on EPF accumulation

1958. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Employees Provident Fund Board has recommended 9.5 per cent rate of interest in EPF accumulation for the year 2004-05; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.